

the people of this great Nation and our great State and the tremendous personal sacrifice. Unless you have been there and done that, you just have no idea what it entails, the sacrifices for SAM personally, for Martha, his lovely wife, and for his family.

But I have been here for 3 years and I have seen that he has been here for three decades and he has done that. So he deserves our praise and the credit, the thanks of a State, the thanks of his colleagues and the thanks of his Nation in this short tribute to him.

Many people also see the conflict, and heaven knows we have had the conflict. SAM and I have gone at it on the floor here, and we both express our opinions and our viewpoints. But what is interesting, most people do not see, is that we come together. We come together for the State of Florida and for the country. That is the greatness of this institution, and certainly SAM does typify all those great traits and that coming together and that leadership.

So we have, my colleagues, today an opportunity to honor a distinguished leader for many years of service, not just here, in our State House in Florida and, as I said, three decades of dedication in this great body.

We have a distinguished veteran. He is a model for what made this country great in his service to his Nation, and we certainly owe him our debt of gratitude for his tremendous service as a veteran.

Then, the part I said that is so important about SAM is his distinguished character as a family person. I know his family and his wife, and he is indeed a distinguished family man, which is so important. When all the other trappings of office leave us, you still have your family. He has certainly been a great family man, a distinguished family man, which I think is so important.

So I join my other colleagues today in thanking him for his years of service, for caring about people. He is so sincere in his caring, not only for the people of Florida but for the entire country, and no matter where they came from or their persuasion or their standing in our society.

I often look up here behind me at the top of the podium, the very top of the House Chamber, and remember the words of Daniel Webster. I first looked at them when I came here. Dan Webster actually asked the question when he served here, and his comment was whether we also in our day and generation may not perform something to be worthy to be remembered.

Certainly, SAM, you have performed something worthy to be remembered, and you have served your generation and generations well. So I join my colleagues from the Florida delegation, from around the country, in saluting you today and thanking you for a job well done.

#### FAREWELL TO SAM GIBBONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Puerto Rico [Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ] is recognized during morning business for 1 minute.

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I speak for the people of Puerto Rico in saying that we wish SAM GIBBONS the best of times following his retirement from the House of Representatives. After 34 years of devoting himself to the welfare of the people of Florida, his home State, and to the welfare of the American people, he more than deserves the opportunity to devote his time to himself and his family. I again speak for the people of Puerto Rico in saying that we also view his departure with a strong sense of personal loss. We have no voting representation in Congress, but we have always had the benefit of a few special friends who have shown great understanding in working to protect the interests of 3,700,000 disenfranchised U.S. citizens. SAM GIBBONS is one of these special friends.

SAM has honorably represented his home district in Congress since 1963, while never losing sight of the importance of being fair to the people of other districts. The intensity of his commitment to the principles of fairness and compassion for the disadvantaged and the deserving against all odds, can be summarized in one word—fearlessness.

More than 50 years ago SAM GIBBONS parachuted into Nazi-occupied France on the night before the Normandy invasion. Upon his entrance to Congress almost two decades later, he immediately began applying this same fearlessness to the defense of the disadvantaged of this country.

His early battles included floor managing President Johnson's anti-poverty programs, including Head Start, and supporting the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He has continued this fearless fight in recent years, cosponsoring the civil rights restoration bill of 1990 and fighting for health care reform and for legislation to aid the elderly. In his work as a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee he has also fought for the equal participation of the people of Puerto Rico in Federal programs and has stood against legislation which would harm the disadvantaged.

Sam has also been a strong advocate of politics aimed at creating peace and security for our country and for the rest of the world. He is well known for his view that a "world bound together by the ties of trade is a world strongly inclined toward economic growth and peace." As chairman of the Subcommittee on Trade he has successfully guided through the House such important and controversial trade legislation as the North American Free Trade Agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Caribbean Basin Initiative. This last initiative has been particularly important to the development of the economies of several countries and the security and regional integration of the Caribbean Basin.

It is a loss to the Nation and particularly to the people of Puerto Rico to

have a man of such compassion and fearless idealism leave this institution. With gratitude for all he has done, I speak for the people of Puerto Rico in wishing him and his family the best in his retirement years and the recognition he so definitely deserves.

#### SAM GIBBONS, A REAL HERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized during morning business for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I hope I am not going to bend too many rules by referring to this distinguished gentleman over here, and SAM, I am not going to say anything unusual. You have heard it, but I want to reiterate it because it means something to me.

After 50 years of public service you are stepping down, and that is pretty unusual. You are a real hero in anyone's mind, and I suppose no one can replace any one of us as individuals but you are somebody very special.

Let me go back to this World War II experience which many people have referred to. I was in World War II, but I am not a hero like SAM is. The concept of dropping 15 miles behind the enemy lines in Utah Beach, 2:30 in the morning on January 6, to wipe out the enemy, to make it safer for those boys to come in on the beach, is really an act of heroism.

And that is not all. SAM went then on to Holland and, as many of you know, remember the story "A Bridge Too Far" and the Rhine campaign, and then there was the Battle of Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge, and then, ultimately, the final attack on Berlin. You were there. As somebody who was associated with you, but in a different part of the war, I will always be grateful for that, SAM.

So, what do you say about somebody who leads a group, there are less than 25 in this House Chamber now that served in World War II, and will be going on to other things and will not be here to give his wisdom? It is going to be a different place.

I mean, every one thing leads to another thing. In talking to SAM's son, Cliff, a terrific young guy, he was saying, "One of the things that differentiates my father from many other people is that that experience in World War II carried on to everything he did in life."

There were two particular areas when he came to Congress. One was the field of education, and you have heard a lot about Head Start. People could say, well, anybody could have started Head Start. They could not have. They did not. This is the man who did it. But you did not do it in a vacuum. You did it because of your feeling that if people can be educated and not beaten by the time they go to first grade, they could learn, they could understand the world in which they lived.

That was the whole genesis of the great service that SAM performed in